



consumer register

A supplement to Consumer News

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Note:

CONSUMER REGISTER lists proposed & final regulations of Federal agencies. To express your opinion, write. Although comments should reach agencies by the deadline, some agencies will consider comments received late. When in doubt about your comments reaching Washington by the deadline, mail anyway.

Blood program

May 7 is deadline for comments on a proposal to create an American Blood Commission Plan to implement Health, Education & Welfare Dept's (HEW) National Blood Policy. The proposal was submitted to HEW by a group of non-government organizations (American Medical Association, American Association of Blood Banks, American National Red Cross, Council of Community Blood Centers, American Hospital Association, American Society of Clinical Pathologists & College of American Pathologists) in response to HEW's National Blood Policy announcement in July 1973, which asked the private sector to coordinate an improved blood service system.

The goals of the program are:

- To have enough blood & blood products to take care of everyone in the U.S. through an all-volunteer blood donor system.
- To improve the quality of blood & reduce the threat of transmissible hepatitis.
- To improve methods of collecting, processing, storing & utilizing blood to reduce waste.
- To make blood available to everyone regardless of economic need.

The proposed plan calls for participation of consumer organizations (including those that are not primarily oriented toward health care) to improve the nation's blood supply. The proposal also discusses membership, regional blood centers, financing & reporting procedures.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 8, page 9326. Send comments to Dr. Charles C. Edwards, Assistant Secretary for Health, Education & Welfare Dept, Washington, DC 20201.

Low-powered motorcycles

May 13 is deadline for comments on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) proposal to amend its standards for low-powered motorcycles.

The proposal is the result of petitions by 3 cycle manufacturers & 2 retailers of low-powered motorcycles who say that vehicles producing more than 1.5 horsepower do not belong in the same category as regular motorcycles & should not be required to have the same safety standards. NHTSA has decided not to establish a separate category for these vehicles but has proposed some minor changes in the standards in response to the petitions. NHTSA feels the changes may make compliance easier & will not endanger drivers.

The proposal, if adopted, would:

- Remove the requirement for turn signals if the cycle's top speed capability is 30 mph or less;
- Reduce the brightness of the stop light to half that required for motorcycles generally;
- Exempt low-speed motorcycles from certain brake tests if the cycles do not attain a speed of more than 30 mph within 1 mile.

- Permit placing the rear brake control on the left handlebar instead of at the right foot, as is now required.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 12, page 13287. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th St., SW, Washington, DC 20590.

Lead-based paint

On May 20, Housing & Urban Development Dept. (HUD) will begin holding public hearings in an effort to obtain information on causes, treatment & elimination of lead poisoning.

The information will be used by HUD in an attempt to solve the problem of lead-based paint poisoning among children in older housing under HUD's jurisdiction.

Lead poisoning in young children can be caused by their eating paint that flakes off walls & furniture. If not detected & treated, lead-based paint poisoning can cause severe mental retardation, can lead to nervous disorders & may even be fatal.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 8, page 12774. Requests to testify, written comments & other matters regarding the hearings should be submitted no later than May 8 to the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development & Research, Housing & Urban Development Dept., 451 7th St. SW, Washington, DC 20410, Attention: Lead-Based Paint Committee, Room 4120. The hearings will start at 9 a.m. May 20 & continue no longer than May 24. They will be held in GSA Auditorium, 18 & F Sts., NW, Washington, DC. Other written comments from persons not planning to attend the hearings should be sent to the same address prior to the date of the hearing if possible, but no later than May 24.

Cosmetic complaints

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has postponed the first reporting period for cosmetic manufacturers, packers & distributors to voluntarily file cosmetic complaints they have received from consumers. FDA originally expected the reporting forms would be ready in time to cover the period from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1973, but they are still not available. Present plans call for the forms to be available today—with the first report covering the period from Jan. 1 through June 30. This form should be filed by Sept. 1.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 8, page 9185, Oct. 17, 1973, page 28914. CONSUMER REGISTER: Nov. 1, 1973.

Mail-order merchandise (continued)

June 14 is new deadline for comments on proposals by Federal Trade Commission (FTC) & Postal Service (PS) to require mail order firms to offer full refunds to consumers who order prepaid merchandise if the merchan-

dise is not delivered within 30 days. Many interested groups & individuals requested additional time to comment.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 15, page 13563; March 8, pages 9201 & 9203. CONSUMER NEWS: July 15, 1973; Nov. 1, 1971. CONSUMER REGISTER: April 1; March 1, 1972. Send comments to Assistant Director for Marketing Practices, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580; or Assistant General Counsel, Consumer Protection Office, Law Dept. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260.

Detergents (continued)

June 10 is new deadline for comments on Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) proposal to require detergent makers to give more information about their products. Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association & Soap & Detergent Association requested additional time to prepare comments.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 5, page 12362; Feb. 8, page 4887. CONSUMER REGISTER: March 1. Send comments to Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

Dry peas

May 6 is deadline for comments on Agriculture Dept.'s proposal to amend its voluntary standards for processors, producers & merchandisers of dry peas.

Under present standards dry peas are classified by variety: Alaska Dry Peas, Colorado White Dry Peas, First & Best Dry Peas, Perfection Dry Peas, Romack Dry Peas, Surprise Dry Peas, White Canada Dry Peas & Mixed Dry Peas. Such a classification system creates extremely difficult identification problems for inspectors & others & is virtually meaningless for consumers.

The proposal, if adopted, would discontinue the above classification & establish the following classes instead:

- Smooth Green Dry peas
- Smooth Yellow Dry Peas
- Wrinkled Dry Peas—wrinkled green or yellow seedcoat (usually used for seed purposes)
- Winter Dry Peas—green, brown or yellow seedcoats
- Mixed Dry Peas—any mixture which does not meet requirements of any other classes.

Some other provisions of the proposed standard are: (1) change the name "Dry Peas" to "Whole Dry Peas" to differentiate them from split peas; & (2) revise the color classifications in the grade chart to read "U.S. No. 1—good, U.S. No. 2—good, U.S. No. 3—poor" instead of "U.S. No. 1—good, U.S. No. 2—fair, U.S. No. 3—poor." (Agriculture says it is difficult to discriminate between three levels of color.)

Details—*Federal Register*: March 22, page 10911. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Agriculture Dept., Room 112, Administration Bldg., Washington, DC 20250.

Tires

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has modified its amendments to tire safety standards in response to petitions from 5 tire companies. The amendments became effective March 28 & differ slightly from those adopted by NHTSA in September 1973.

The amendments revise the definition of "innerliner" & "innerliner separation" & modify the time that may elapse before testing tires. The original amendments required that the tire be removed from the test wheel for inspection immediately after the tests are completed. The petitioners said artificial separation of the innerliner could take place when a hot tire is deflated rapidly.

NHTSA is therefore permitting the tire to cool for one hour before deflating it.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 28, page 11423; Sept. 28, 1973, page 27050. CONSUMER REGISTER: Oct. 15, 1973.

Drained weight (continued)

May 6 is new deadline for comments on Consumers Union's (CU) petition that Food & Drug Administration (FDA) require drained weight labeling of processed fruits & vegetables. National Canners Association requested a new deadline because it needed more time to comment.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 14, page 9850; Dec. 5, 1973, page 33512. CONSUMER REGISTER: Jan. 15.

Also noteworthy

LECITHIN—Food & Drug Administration (FDA) will permit the optional use of lecithin in cheese products beginning April 22. Lecithin coats the surfaces of the cheese slices & package wrapping to keep them from sticking together. Lecithin is an edible & digestible emulsifier of natural origin (plants & animals). Details—*FR*: Feb. 19, p. 6109.

CHICKEN FEED Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has withdrawn its approval of the new animal drug racephenicol for use in chicken feed. Racephenicol is supposed to control cholera in chickens. FDA says the drug, which has not been sold or used in chicken feed, could be harmful to persons suffering from typhoid fever. Details—*FR*: March 8, pp. 9184 & 9219.

COLOR ADDITIVES—Food & Drug Administration (FDA) says the color additive FD&C Yellow No. 5 is safe for coloring externally applied cosmetics other than hair straighteners, permanent wave preparations & hair removers. Effective March 22. Details—*FR*: Jan. 21, p. 2358.

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